

**DRAFT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For**  
**A SOLAR-POWERED RADIO REPEATER ON ROSILLO**  
**PEAK, BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**  
**Big Bend, Texas**

**Lead Agency:** National Park Service, Big Bend National Park  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Marfa  
Region

**Proposed Action:** Installation of a Solar-Powered Radio Repeater

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**Abstract:**

The proposed action discussed in this document is the installation of a solar-powered radio repeater on Rosillo Peak in Big Bend National Park, Texas. The proposed installation would expand radio coverage of the area, reduce radio "blind spots", and increase the battery capacity to handle consistent use by multiple agencies. The proposed radio repeater is necessary to support NPS management operations, law enforcement and anti-terrorist activities along this portion of the international border. The current radio capabilities provide insufficient coverage and are unreliable. The improved communications among law enforcement agencies would have an overall positive effect on the protection of natural and cultural resources of Big Bend National Park. The proposed action would require mitigation measures to protect a known archeological resource on Rosillo Peak. In addition, the NPS would apply a soil stabilizer to minimize impacts to soil resources at the site and paint the installation to minimize the visual impact of the proposed installation. This document provides an environmental assessment of the proposed solar-powered radio repeater site.

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## Glossary: Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms

Alternative	Plan, option, choice (this EA analyzes two alternatives)
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act 1979
BIBE	Big Bend National Park
CAA	Clean Air Act 1990
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQ Regulations	Regulations that tell how to implement NEPA
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
Cumulative effects	Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable effects added together (regardless of who or what has caused, is causing, and might cause these effects)
CWA	Clean Water Act 1977
Decisionmaker	BIBE Superintendent, with review from Division of Science and Resource Management
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact (on the human environment, as defined in CEQ Regulations 1508.14)

FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDT/UDA	Illegal drug trafficking/undocumented alien activities
Issue	An environmental resource about which someone has a concern; identified in NEPA, § 102 (2) (E) as an unresolved conflict
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act 1966, 2000
No action	Continue present management without implementing the proposed project
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS (formerly SCS)	Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service)
Objective	A subset of the project's goal
Proposed action	The action alternative (option/plan) that is being evaluated; the decisionmaker may accept or reject it near the end of the analysis process
ROD	Record of Decision
SAL	State Archeological Landmark
THC	Texas Historical Commission
TPWD	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
USCBP (formerly USBP/USCS)	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (formerly U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Customs Service)
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service